

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07 INR-10 IO-12 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 ADP-00 /112 W

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P R 222145 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1992

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

EXN/ AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDAO SAIGON

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DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 8976

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS

SUBJECT: EMBASSY SAIGON' S MISSION WEEKLY MAY 16-22, 1973

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

- SIXTEENTH CEASEFIRE WEEK SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE IN PREVIOUS PATTERNS
- VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS BEGIN, DEMOCRACY PARTY DOES PREDICTABLY WELL
- UNIFIED CELEBRATION OF BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY HELD
- LOWER HOUSE MAY DEBATE ARREST OF DEPUTY NGUYEN TAN DOI
- UPPER HOUSE SCANDAL REMAINS IN PUBLIC FOCUS AND THREE NEW CEASE OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION STIR INTEREST
- GVN SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR ALGIERS
- COMMUNIST MEDIA CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT WATERGATE AFFAIR
- SAIGON RETAIL PRICE INDEX UP 1.3 PERCENT
- PRESIDENT THIEU ANNOUNCES LONG- AWAITED PROGRAM FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION
- JAPANESE CONTINUE SUSPENSION OF SHRIMP PURCHASES FOR SUSPECTED CONTAMINATION, OTHER CUSTOMERS CONTINUE TO BUY

I. INTERNAL

A. CEASEFIRE IN THE SIXTEENTH WEEK

1. DURING THE SIXTEENTH WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE, MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DDSTLINE THROUGHOUT THE RVN, WITH THE USUAL EXCEPTIONS OF THUA THIEN, BINH DINH, AND CHUONG THIEN, WHICH WERE AGAIN THE FOCAL POINTS OF COMBAT ACTIVITY. THE COMMUNISTS PUSHED AHEAD WITH THEIR PROGRAM OF BUILDING UP THE PORTIONS OF THE HIGHLANDS AND WESTERN SOUTH VIETNAM UNDER THEIR CONTROL. BOTH SIDES CONTINUED TO MAKE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR FORCES STRUCTURE, WITH THE

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RVNAF REPORTEDLY STARTING A PROGRAM OF UPGRADING RF AND PF IN MR I AND THE VC CREATING NEW BATTALION- SIZED UNITS AND REFITTING SOME EXISTING UNITS IN THE DELTA.

2. THE ICCS FUNCTIONED AS INEFFECTIVELY AS EVER, AND THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE EAST EUROPEAN AND THE OTHER DELEGATIONS BECAME SOMEWHAT MORE OPENLY EIRIMONIOUS. DESPITE THE FRUSTRATION, HOWEVER, MORE CANDEL MEMBERS ARE PREDICTING THAT CANADA WILL REMAIN IN THE ICCS PAST JULY 1.

3. THE PRG APPOINTED THEIR ACTING CHIEF, MG HOANG ANH TUAN, AS THE PERMANENT HEAD OF THEIR DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC,

BUT THIS HAS NOT YET RESULTED IN ANY APPARENT PROGRESS IN THE CONTINUING TALKS. THE FPJMT ( MIA) HAS RUN INTO DRV OBSTRUCTIONISM IN REPATRIATING THE REMAINS OF THOSE WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY FROM NORTH VIETNAM. IN COUNTRY, THE JOINT RESOLUTION CENTER TEAMS RAN TWO MORE CRASH SITE INSPECTIONS, ONE IN BAC LIEU WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL AND ONE IN VINH BINH WHICH PROVED TO BE LESS SUCCESSFUL IN THAT NO EVIDENCE OF THE CRASH COULD BE SPOTTED AT THE COORDINATES GIVEN.

B. PRESIDENT THIEU ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC PROGRAM  
PRESIDENT THIEU ANNOUNCED A NEW PROGRAM OF POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A 40- MINUTE TELEVISION ADDRESS MAY 20. HE NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PLEDGED TO HONOR THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, THEY CONTINUE TO AIM AT TAKING OVER SOUTH VIETNAM. THEREFORE, " WE MUST PROMOTE A TRUE AND LASTING PEACE FOR OURSELVES". MILITARY, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH IS NECESSARY. THIEU OUTLINED A THREE-PHASE ECONOMIC PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 1973 AND 1980. AN INITIAL PHASE FOCUSING ON POSTWAR RECOVERY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY LARGE- SCALE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, NOTABLY IN AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM. ( SEE ALSO ITEM III C BELOS.)

C. VILLAGE ELECTIONS UNDERWAY  
ELECTIONS FOR VILLAGE COUNCILS, SUSPENDED DURING 1972, ARE UNDERWAY THROUGHOUT SVN. SOME SEVENTY- NINE PERCENT OF THE 1,385 ELECTIONS ARE SLATED FOR MAY AND JUNE. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTED CASES IN WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES REFUSED PERMISSION FOR NON- MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRACY PARTY TO  
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STAND FOR ELECTION. NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT IS COMMON FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT DP CANDIDATES. IN THOSE AREAS FOR WHICH RETURNS ARE AVAILABLE, THE DP IS DOING PREDICTABLY WELL. IN QUANG NAM NEARLY 85 PERCENT OF THE WINNERS HAD DP SUPPORT; IN TAY NINH THE FIGURE APPROACHED 90 PERCENT.

D. UNIFIED CELEBRATION OF BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY HELD  
1. THE JOINT CELEBRATION OF BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY BY AN QUANG, QUOC TU, AND OTHER SMALLER BUDDHIST GROUPS WENT OFF AS SCHEDULED, FEATURING A MAJOR CEREMONY MAY 17 IN SAIGON. SIMILAR CELEBRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN OTHER CITIES. THE SAIGON NEWSPAPERS AND GVN RADIO AND TELEVISION GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE EVENTS.

2. COMMENT: THIS UNIFIED EFFORT IS BEING HERALDED AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD POSSIBLY UNITY BETWEEN THE TWO MAIN BUDDHIST FACTIONS, WHICH SPLIT IN 1966. HOWEVER, THE JOINING OF THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WILL REQUIRE MUCH TICKLISH NEGOTIATING, AND SUCCESS WILL CERTAINLY NOT COME SOON, IF AT ALL. FOR EXAMPLE, AN QUANG COULD FACE MAJOR DISSENSION INTERNALLY IF THE BARGAINING WITH QUOC TU RESULTED IN WHAT

THE AN QUANG MILITANT WING CONSIDERED A "SELLOUT" TO THE GOVERNMENT.

E. LOWER HOUSE MAY DEBATE ARREST OF DEPUTY DOI

1. LOWER HOUSE OPPOSITIONISTS ARE CIRCULATING A PETITION TO FORCE DISCUSSION OF THE ARREST OF DEPUTY NHUYEN TAN DOI, OWNER OF THE RECENTLY CLOSED TIN NGHIA BANK. HOUSE RULES REQUIRE THAT DEBATE BE SCHEDULED IF REQUESTED BY ONE-THIRD OF THE HOUSE MEMBERSHIP. PRO- ADMINISTRATION ELEMENTS OPPOSE THE MOVE, BUT THERE MAY BE SUFFICIENT SENTIMENT AMONG OPPOSITIONIST AND INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES TO MUSTER THE NECESSARY FIFTY- THREE SIGNATURES.

2. IF THE ISSUE IS BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR, THE OPPOSITIONIST LEADERSHIP WILL CALL ON ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS, PROBABLY INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK, TO TESTIFY. THIS WILL HAVE THE DUAL PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE EXTENT OF DOI' S GUILT AND GIVING THE OPPOSITION AN OPPORTUNITY TO BERATE THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS BELATED DISCOVERY OF THE MISCONDUCT. SEVERAL DEPUTIES WILL PROBABLY USE THE OCCASION TO ATTACK THE ADMINISTRATION FOR WHAT THEY INTERPRET TO BE ITS DISREGARD FOR THE ARTICLE 37 (2) OF THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH DEALS WITH IMMUNITY OF LEGISLATORS FROM PROSECUTION OR ARREST.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07 INR-10 IO-12

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /112 W  
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P R 222145 Z MAY 73  
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1993  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USDEL JEC PARIS  
CIA  
DIA  
LBHOLS/ JCS  
JUSMAAG  
WHITE HOUSE  
USAJFKCMA  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL DANANG  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
USDAO SAIGON  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 8976

F. SENATOR TRUONG TIEN DAT CHARGES CHAIRMAN HUYEN  
IN UPPER HOUSE SCANDAL

1. DURING AN UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION MAY 16, CATHOLIC  
SENATOR TRUONG TIEN DAT ACCUSED UPPER HOUSE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN  
VAN HUYEN OF BEING A KNOWING ACCOMPLICE IN THE CORRUPTION SCANDAL  
SURROUNDING HUYEN' S FORMER DIRECTOR OF CABINET, MR. DIEP VAN  
MINH ( SEE SAIGON 8581 ITEM I- D). MEANWHILE, MINH HAS REPORTEDLY  
BEEN ARRESTED TRYING TO FLEE ACROSS THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.  
THE SAIGON PRESS CONTINUES TO SHOW GREAT INTEREST IN THE CASE.

2. COMMENT: SENATOR DAT RECENTLY WITHDREW FROM THE  
FREEDOM PARTY, OF WHICH HUYEN IS A LEADER, TAKING SOME OTHER  
GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE MEMBERS WITH HIM. ALTHOUGH THE  
GSF LEADER, MR. NGUYEN GIA HIEN, REMAINS IN THE FREEDOM  
PARTY, THIS DEFECTION HAS HURT THE FREEDOM PARTY' S ORGANIZING  
EFFORTS SOMEWHAT, AND THE SCANDAL NOW ADDS TO THE DIFFICULTIES.  
DAT AND HIS ADHERENTS CHARGE HUYEN WITH EXERCISING UNDUE  
INFLUENCE INSIDE THE FREEDOM PARTY.

G. NEW CASES OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION STIR PUBLIC INTEREST

A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS LAST WEEK CARRIED STORIES ALLEGING CORRUPTION IN THREE MAJOR NEW CASES, RPVOIDING A PARTIAL DIVERSION FROM THE TI NGHIA BANK AND UPPER HOUSE SCANDALS THAT HAVE LARGELY DOMINATED THE SCENE OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS. MR. TRAN QUOC BUU, HEAD OF THE CVT LABOR UNION AND A MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE, HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH MISAPPROPRIATING A LARGE SUM SUPPLIED FOR VIETNAMESE LABOR WELFARE BY WEST GERMAN ASSISTANCE. IN A SEPARATE STROY, THE GVN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TAXATION, MR. NGUYEN HAI BINH, HAS BEEN PUBLICLY ACCUSED OF MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE SALE OF A HOUSE TO ESCAPE TAXES. FINALLY, ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE QUANG TRUNG MILITARY

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TRANING CENTER FOR ARVN INFANTRY UNITS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY DAN QUYEN. THE TRUTH OF ALL THESE STORIES IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE, BUT KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS HAVE REFUTED THE ACCURACY OF THE CHARGE AGAINST BUU. THERE IS EVIDENCE GOING BACK TWO YEARS OR MORE, HOWEVER, THAT CONDITIONS AT THE QUANG TRUNG CENTER ARE MARKED BY POOR INSTRUCTION, ABUSE OF RECURITS, AND CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION.

#### H. RVN MEDIA REVIEW

1. THE SAIGON NEWSPAPERS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD PUT CONSISTENTLY HEAVY EMPHASIS ON A FEW MAIN STORIES THE KISSINGER- THO DISCUSSIONS AND RELATED EVENTS GOT HEADLINE TREATMENT ON MOST DAYS. THE WATERGATE PROBLEM ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ( SEE SAIGON 8885), AS DID SEVERAL NEWLY REVEALED CORRUPTION SCANDALS IN SOUTH VIETNAM SUCH AS THE UPPER HOUSE AFFAIR INVOLVING MR. DIEP VAN MINH ( SEE ABOVE). THE BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WERE PROMINENTLY COVERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE WEEK. EVENTS IN CAMBODIA RECEIVED MODERATE BUT STEADY ATTENTION. PRESIDENT THIEU' S NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM ( SEE ABOVE) HAS BEEN GIVEN SPOTTY EMPHASIS SO FAR, DUE PERHAPS TO ITS NEWNESS AS A STORY. ( HOWEVER, NUMEROUS STREET BANNERS IN SAIGON HAVE ALREADY GONE UP PROCLAIMING THE PROGRAM.)

2. EDITORIALS DURING THE WEEK CONCENTRATED TO AN UNUSUAL EXTENT ON THE KISSINGER- THO TALKS. WHILE THE LINE TAKEN IN THESE COMMENTARIES WAS NOT UNIFORM, SPECULATION ON THE MOTIVES AND RELATIVE BARGAINING POSITIONS OF THE TWO NEGOTIATORS PROVIDED THE MOST FREQUENT THEME. SEVERAL EDITORIALS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE WATERGATE AFFAIR OR THE US CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON BOMBING IN CAMBODIA HAD NOT DRASTICALLY AFFECTED NIXON' S PRESTIGE AND KISSINGER' S NEGOTIATING POSITION. THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR MARTI

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ACTION EA-14

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OMB-01 SS-15 ADP-00 /112 W  
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P R 222145 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1994

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USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

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JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 SAIGON 8976

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ( TEXT PARA F.)

IN A MAY 20 BROADCAST, FOR EXAMPLE, RADIO HANOI, QUOTING AP, REPORTED THAT SECRETARY ROGERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WATERGATE CASE MIGHT HURT THE US IMAGE ABROAD.

D. BANGLADESH, BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS ARRIVE IN HANOI,  
CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

ON MAY 19 THE NEWLY ARRIVED AMBASSADORS OF BANGLADESH AND BULGARIA CALLED SEPARATELY UPON DRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH TO DISCUSS THE PRESENTATION OF THEIR CREDENTIALS. THE NEW ENVOYS ARE KHWAJA MOHAMMED KAISER OF BANGLADESH AND NIKOLAY CHERNEV NIKOLOV OF BULGARIA.

E. BRITISH CP DELEGATION FETED IN HANOI

A DELEGATION OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY LEAD BY JOHN GOLLAN ARRIVED IN HANOI ON MAY 19. THAT EVENING THE DELEGATION WAS TREATED TO A " GRAND RECEPTION" AT WHICH VWP FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN, THE PARTY' S NUMBER TWO MAN TRUONG CHINH, AND FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

F. FIRST DRV AMBASSADOR TO CHILE PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

VU HAC BONG, THE DRV' S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIAL TO PRESIDENT SALVADO ALLENDE ON MAY 14. ACCORDING TO NVA, ALLENDE AND BONG HAD A " CORDIAL TALK" DURING WHICH EACH EXPRESSED HIS PEOPLE' S " SOLIDARITY" WITH THE OTHER' S PEOPLE;

III. ECONOMIC

A. PRICES

THE SAIGON RETAIL PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 21 WAS UP 1.3 PERCENT. NON- FOOD ITEMS INCREASED A MODEST 0.7 PERCENT AS ONLY TWO ITEMS SHOWED ANY CHANGE: CALICO ( UP 4 PERCENT) AND LAUNDRY SOAP ( UP 2 PERCENT), BOTH REFLECTING INCREASED COSTS OF  
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IMPORTED INPUTS. THE FOOD SIDE OF THE INDEX ROSE 1.6 PERCENT AS RICE PRICES CONTINUED TO INCH UP ( 1 PERCENT) AND PORK, FISH, CHICKEN, AND SHRIMP PRICES ALL POSTED INCREASES. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR CONTINUED RICE PRICE INCREASES AS GOVERNMENT PURCHASING EFFORTS EXPAND IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO. PRODUCT ITEMS IN THE FOOD INDEX PRESENT A NORMAL MIXED PICTURE REFLECTING SEASONAL AND MARKET AVAILABILITY FACTORS.

B. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD PRICES.

THE PIASTER WAS REVALUED EFFECTIVE MAY 19 FRO 485 TO 500. LITTLE CURRENCY BLACK MARKET ACTIVITY WAS NOTED AS THE QUOTE ON MAY 21 FOR \$100 GREEN WAS 500 AND FOR \$10 GREEN ONLY 496. GOLD LEAF PRICES ROSE FROM 47,000 ON MAY 14 TO 50,000 MAY 18, BUT HAD DROPPED BACK TO 48,500 MY MAY 21. CONVERTED AT THE LEGAL EXCHANGE RATE A TROY OUNCE OF GOLD IN SAIGON COSTS US\$80.48 VERSUS A MAY 19 QUOTE OF US \$94.85 IN HONG KONG. GOLD PRICES IN VIETNAM REMAIN CONSIDERABLY BELOW WORLD PRICES AS THEY HAVE SINCE EARLY LAST YEAR.



C. NEW GVN ECONOMIC PROGRAM

PRESIDENT THIEU ANNOUNCED THE GVN'S LONG- WAWITED PROGRAM FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION IN A TELEVISED SPEECH ON MAY 20. A FUND FOR RECOVERY, REHABILITATIONS, AND RECONSTRUCTION WILL BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A NATIONAL REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. PRESIDENT THIEU WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WHICH WILL CONSIST FOR THE MOST PART OF LEADING CABINET MINISTERS. PRESENT INTENTION IS TO NAME MINISTER OF ECONOMY NGOC AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL, BUT THE EXTENT OF HIS REAL AUTHORITY IS NOT YET ENTIRELY CLEAR. THE FUND WILL DISPOSE OF 55 BILLION PIASTERS, WITH INITIAL FINANCING OF FIVE BILLION PIASTERS FROM GVN WAR RELIEF TAXES AND FIVE TO TEN BILLION PIASTERS FROM US COUNTERPART. FOREIGN DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WILL BE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE. THE GVN HAS PROVIDED A LIST OF 37 MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM INCLUDING, IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND AND THE COUNCIL: IMPLEMENTATION OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS; MEASURES TO INCUREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY IN RICE AND FEED- GRAINS; A RESTRUCTURING OF THE BANKING SYSTEM TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF INVESTMENT CREDIT AND FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF CREDIT TO RURAL AREAS; MEASURES TO PROMOTE EXPORTS, INCLUDING

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IN- COUNTRY EXPORTS ( LOCAL PROCUREMENT PROGRAM); EASING OF EXISTING RESTRICTIONS ON TORUISM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TOURIST PROMOTION PROGRAM; AND REDUCTION OF NON- ESSENTIAL IMPORTS.

D. EFFECTS OF ALLEGED MARINE PRODUCTS CONTAMINATION ON VIETNAMESE SHRIMP EXPORTS.

AS REPORTED IN THE MISSION WEEKLY FOR MAY 8 THE JAPANESE HAVE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED SHRIMP IMPORTS FROM VIETNAM. WHILE THIS SUSPENSION CONTINUES TO BE IN EFFECT, JAPANESE PURCHASING AGENTS CONTINUE TO BUY SHRIMP, FREEZE- PROCESS IT, AND HOLD IT, APPARENTLY IN ANTICIPATION OF AN EARLY END TO THE SUSPENSION. IN THE MEAN- TIME, NEW SAMPLES HAVE BEEN GETHERED AND TESTS FOR DIOXIN CON- TAMINATION ARE BEING CONDUCTED. SEVERAL OTHER CUSTOMERS, INCLUD- ING HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE, CONTINUE TO ACCEPT SHRIMP IMPORTS FROM VIETNAM. ORIGINAL CONCERN OVER EXPORT DOLLAR LOSSES HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED. IF CURRENT TESTING SHOULD PERMIT AN EARLY REMOVAL OF THE JAPANESE SUSPENSION, SHRIMP EXPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE OVERALL EXPORT PICTURE.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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BUDAPEST  
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BIEN HOA  
CAN THO  
DANANG  
EXN NHA TRANG  
USDAO SAIGON  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACAF F  
CO TH PSYOPS GP  
CINCPACFLT  
CINCUSARPAC  
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG  
**Type:** TE

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